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## U.S. May Use Modified U-2 Plane To Monitor Soviet Missile Testing

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WASHINGTON, April 3 — The Carter Administration plans to try to compensate for the loss of two American electronic listening posts in northern Iran by using a modified version of the U-2 spy plane to monitor missile tests in the Soviet Union, officials said today.

This plan was described as a stopgap measure to verify Soviet compliance with any new treaty limiting offensive nuclear arms until a new generation of satellites could be developed to intercept Soviet test signals. The officials said it would take more than two years to develop and deploy such missiles.

The plane, which has a maximum altitude of 90,000 feet, would fly over areas close to the Soviet Union's southwestern border but would not be used over Soviet territory. The officials declined to discuss where the aircraft would be based or what countries it would fly over, but it is known that U-2's have used the British air base at Akrotiri in Cyprus for reconnaissance missions in the Middle East.

### Plans in Early Stage

In the late 1950's, U-2's were also stationed in Pakistan and Turkey, but officials indicated it was unlikely that those two countries would allow the plane to use bases there once again or even to fly over their territory. The officials added, however, that plans to use the U-2 in the region were at an early stage and that the governments there had not been asked for their cooperation.

In 1960, the downing of a U-2 flown by Francis Gary Powers over Soviet territory precipitated a major international crisis. The plane's base was in Turkey. After the incident, Nikita S. Khrushchev,

the Soviet leader, canceled a meeting with President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Until Central Intelligence Agency technicians were forced to evacuate the Iranian listening posts last month, the stations had been used to intercept radio signals broadcast by missiles launched from the Soviet Union's main rocket base at Tyuratam, some 600 miles north of the Iranian border.

These radio signals are viewed as a modernization and thus the Administration recently undertook a hurried study of how to collect the test data by other means. The study was given added urgency by private warnings from Senator John Glenn, Democrat of Ohio, and others that the Senate would be unlikely to approve a new arms accord without an Administration plan to compensate for the loss of the facilities in Iran.

The U-2, which was first flown in 1956, is described by officials as particularly well suited for the task of electronic intelligence. With long wings that give it superb endurance at high altitudes, the U-2 is able to stay aloft for many hours at a time.

In the mid-1960's, the United States began to fly a successor to the U-2, known as the SR-71, which was designed to outrun Soviet air defense missiles. But it is described as too fast and too expensive to maintain for the projected mission.

The U-2 is still used for reconnaissance missions over friendly or undefended areas and last year the Administration received Congressional approval to buy 25 more U-2's, renamed the TR-1, for use in Western Europe to monitor Soviet military activities in the East.

### To Have Listening Devices

Unlike the early U-2's, which were fitted mainly with photographic gear, officials said the new versions would be equipped with advanced electronic listening devices. Officials said the planes would not be kept in the air continuously, but would be launched when satellites and other intelligence aids indicated that a Soviet missile test was imminent.

Once aloft, the planes would dangle a long antenna to pick up the signals broadcast by the Soviet missiles in flight.

Officials said the decision to rely on the U-2 to fill monitoring gaps created by the

loss of the stations in Iran was based on the difficulty of finding suitable sites for similar bases elsewhere.

They said that to compensate completely for the stations, it would have been necessary to locate new stations in either Pakistan or Afghanistan and that this was not politically feasible.

The United States does operate several listening posts in Turkey, but officials said they are too far from the Soviet rocket base at Tyuratam to obtain missile test data.

### Some Aides Are Critical

Officials acknowledged that the Administration's plan for the U-2's had set off a debate in intelligence circles, with some aides criticizing the Government for not moving earlier to find a replacement for the Iranian stations.

The aides said that before the United States lost its stations in Iran, it had been ousted from a number of listening posts abroad, including an ideally situated base at Peshawar, Pakistan, which it relinquished in 1969.

Despite this, they said, the current Administration and previous ones had continually turned down proposals for improving satellites for monitoring Soviet missile performance, contending that the cost was too high.

The Soviet Union also monitors missile tests. But it uses ships rather than ground stations or planes to obtain data, because American missiles are launched over either the Atlantic or Pacific Oceans.

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